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ANSWER IT

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ANSWER Client Recognition Award Presented to Kelvin Magee ***ANSWER SDC Staff***



On April 23rd, at the ANSWER Tech Refresh III Summit, Kelvin Magee of United States Forces Korea (USFK), received the ANSWER Client Recognition Award from Bob Johnston, R9 FTS ARA during a Summit briefing by R9 Business Development Manager, Bruce Webb. Kelvin is the first recipient of this award in calendar year 2002. The award is presented by the ANSWER SDC to recognize and acknowledge professionals in the IT arena who serve as prime technology implementers for their agency.

Kelvin serves as the Contracting Officer for J6 USFK and is responsible for implementation of the Global Command and Control Project. Kelvin currently uses the ANSWER Contract to manage all C4I requirements.

During the month of September, at the request of Kelvin and other Army J6 clients, Solutions Edu will present a COR/COTR Training class in Korea. Mr. Jack Donovan will team-teach the class with Ron Heald of the ANSWER SDC. The focus of the class is genuine learning through real world contracting examples. The class will provide personalized assistance to the Army J6 employees. This 5-day course will be customized to the roles and responsibilities of preparing and administering task orders under GSA FTS MA/IDIQ contracts for information technology.

ANSWER Supports New Requirement for AF Air Combat

Thelma Riusaki

On March 29th, EER was awarded an ANSWER task order to integrate the Measurements and Signatures Intelligence (MASINT) capability into the Air Force Distributed Common Ground System. The initial value of the award is \$3.3 million through March of 2003, with an estimated task value of \$57.4 million through 2008. The Air Force system simultaneously tasks and receives, processes, exploits, and disseminates multi-discipline intelligence data from national, theater, tactical, and commercial collection assets in a distributed environment to support national, joint, combined, and Air Force operations.

Responsibilities under this project include intelligence capabilities related to operations, operational planning, system development, integration, and training. Site support includes Langley AFB along with additional Air Force sites in Washington, DC, California, Hawaii, Korea, and Germany.

PBS Client Shares Solutions Edu Experience

Sheila Leonard

During the week of April 23rd, the Solutions Edu Class, Contracting for Services under MA/IDIQs, was provided in Region 10, with 35 students in attendance. One Client summarized his experience with the following words:

"I just wanted to let everyone know how much I appreciate the show of teamwork and cooperation the FTS community demonstrated to me this week. As a PBS client of an FTS MA/IDIQ contract, I was invited to attend "Contracting for Services Under Multiple Awards, Indefinite Delivery Indefinite Quantity" training. The subject went well beyond the scope of just MA/IDIQ contracts and I learned many important things about the various Government Wide Acquisition Contracts (GWACs). The training, sponsored by the SDC was informative and thought provoking. One of the best parts of the training was the ability to interface with the FTS Contracting Officers.

The knowledge I gained from this 2-1/2 day course makes me a better client of FTS and at the same time provides the background I need to manage MA/IDIQ

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3rd Annual Past Performance Survey Speaks to Continued Success

Sherrie Householder

The ANSWER SDC has compiled the statistics of this year's Past Performance Survey for the ANSWER Industry Partners and the results are extraordinary. The survey was conducted during February and the responses computed to an overall average of 4.48 on a scale of 5. Five of the partners received the "Brass Ring" for exceeding the scores of their contract pre-award survey. Keeping in mind that the pre-award surveys are performed on references provided by the contract bidders, exceeding the scores of self-provided references is truly outstanding. The highest ratings were achieved for the second year in a row by ITS. Recognition was provided to the following ANSWER Program Managers for exceeding their pre-award survey scores: Bob Burk of Anteon Corp., Paul Eaton of Booz Allen & Hamilton, Elaine Dauphin of CSC, Diane Ruffner of DynCorp, and Jeanne Innis-Olson of Litton/PRC. The survey had an overall response of 54% with approximately 1848 surveys distributed. All Project Managers, Information Technology Managers and Customer Service representatives within GSA FTS who placed an order under ANSWER during the third year of the contract were invited to participate in the survey. Additionally, all end-user clients who ordered from ANSWER during the same timeframe were surveyed. The ANSWER Industry Partners received their Past Performance debriefs during the ANSWER Tech Refresh III Summit in Rancho Mirage during the week of April 22nd.

(Continued – ANSWER Report Readied for OMB) contracts in PBS. The scenario of providing a space for the client in this type of training makes GSA a better place to work. It promotes harmony in the workplace and a better understanding of what the FTS associates do as it relates to the tasks we perform in Public Building Service. I would highly recommend this course to other clients of FTS contracting and hope that you will be able to continue to occasionally offer this type of training. Thank you for giving me the opportunity to learn more about FTS and what it can do for us in your sister services. I look forward to teaming with your fine staff more in the future."

IT Security Training Becomes Controversial

Sheila Leonard

Teaming with FedLearn, the ANSWER SDC worked to meet the 1987 Computer Security Act's mandatory periodic IT security training through GSA's On-Line University. At issue was making a determination that GSA could, in fact, provide such training to GSA contractors as well as GSA associates. In general, contractors are expected to be ready, willing, and able to perform the contracts they have been awarded and to possess the requisite knowledge and skills to perform. An exception to this was researched and cited as the Computer Security Act of 1987, 100 P.L. 235, which requires "... mandatory periodic training for all persons involved in ... Federal computer systems that contain sensitive information."

Staying In Tune With Sound Procurement Practices

Mimi Bruce

While the task order solicitation process in FAR 16.505 is meant to be a simplified procedure for seeking competition and making a best value award, the process still requires due diligence in adhering to procurement principles and practices. This due diligence process should at all times espouse the fundamental principle of "fair opportunity" for all those participating. The following is a list of best practices that we should adhere to in the task order award process:

- ◆ Enforce deadlines for submission of proposals equally for all offerors.
- ◆ Insure that information made available to one offeror is made available all offerors.
- ◆ If negotiations are warranted, all offerors must have an opportunity to negotiate. If negotiations are opened for one offeror, negotiations must re-open to all.
- ◆ The time to negotiate is pre-award - DO NOT request BAFOs post award.
- ◆ When an award is made, all offerors should be notified in a timely manner.
- ◆ Decide which single contract vehicle can best meet the requirements and then compete amongst the contract holders under that one contract vehicle. To do otherwise, is to compare apples to oranges as each contract vehicle has its own unique terms and conditions.
- ◆ An Administrative Contracting Officer (ACO) receiving a delegation of contracting authority from the ANSWER Procuring Contracting Officer (PCO) may not re-delegate that contracting officer authority to others.
- ◆ A Contracting Officers Technical Representative (COTR) receiving authority from an ACO may not re-delegate his/her COTR responsibilities to others.

Mid May-June Events

Date: 5/13 – 5/17
Location: Atlanta, GA
Event: Sol. Edu – Price Analysis

Date: 5/21
Location: Denver, CO
Event: FORUM

Date: 6/3 – 6/5
Location: New Orleans, LA
Event: FGIPC Management of Change Conference

Date: 6/10 – 6/14
Location: Oakland, CA
Event: Sol. Edu – Contracting for Services

Date: 6/10 – 6/14
Location: Ft. Worth, TX
Event: Sol. Edu – Cost Reimbursement Contracting

Date: 6/19; 6/21
Location: Boston, MA ; Norfolk, VA
Event: FORUM

Date: 6/24 – 6/28
Location: Pentagon
Event: Sol. Edu – PBSOW

Date: 6/25 – 6/27
Location: Chicago, IL
Event: Sol. Edu – Contracting for Services

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